

## CRONJE STILL HOLDS OUT

British Artillery Fire Continued Throughout Thursday.

The Shrophires Rush Nearer the Langer-Dewet, with a Relief Column, Believed to Be at Petrusburg. Roberts Engaging Him, While Kitchener Holds the Modder River Division—The Fighting Spread Over a Large Area—Boer Commandant Urged to Surrender—Experts Think That the Entrapped General Will Try to Cut His Way Through.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The latest despatches indicate that Cronje still holds out and that Buller is having to fight every inch of the way in his advance toward Ladysmith. The latest news from Pretoria is contained in a despatch dated February 22. In this telegram the claim is made that communication with General Cronje is still open, but that no news has been received. A despatch from an English correspondent, dated Paardeberg, February 23, says: "The shelling of the Boers was continued intermittently today. Last night a large supply column reached us. Two thousand Boers are reported to be operating to our east."

"Yesterday afternoon (Wednesday), when the last gun had been fired, the Shrophires rushed 500 yards farther toward the river, where Cronje is entrenched, and found several dead Boers."

"French has taken 75 Boers and a patrol has captured 30 more to the westward."

Not a word has come from Roberts since Wednesday, and England is growing anxious. It looks as if Roberts is now fighting two Boer armies, one at Paardeberg and one at Petrusburg, fifteen miles to the southeast. Commandant Dewet telegraphed Pretoria Tuesday that he expected a big fight at Petrusburg on Wednesday and it is likely that the struggle with him and with Cronje is going on and that bloody fighting is raging over a large area."

It is possible that Dewet may have collected 10,000 or 15,000 men at Paardeberg and is making a desperate effort to join Cronje. Nevertheless, experts do not see how Cronje can escape annihilation or surrender, but his defence is arousing the greatest admiration. It is declared to be one of the grandest exhibitions of valor of the century.

**Playing a Desperate Game.**

In a very hot fire, with his wagons burning, his men falling on every hand, and his shells and shrapnel from fifty British guns bursting around him, Cronje is fighting to the death, and showing how well he deserves the name of the "Lion of the North."

His wife, it is reported today, is with him, and is urging him to yield, but he steadfastly refuses. To the pleadings of his wife and the demands of his foes, he returns the same answer, and the struggle goes on.

The news as to Cronje's wife comes from prisoners captured by the British, who say that Mrs. Cronje is urging her husband, for the sake of the lives of his men, to accept Kitchener's terms.

If Cronje had surrendered, Roberts would undoubtedly have called the fact at once. The Commander-in-Chief of the British forces, has telegraph wires running into his tent at Paardeberg, and is in the closest touch with the War Office.

It is thought here that Roberts' silence may be due to the arrival of Boer reinforcements, which may have kept him busy since Wednesday morning. Commander Dewet's despatch and other news from Pretoria are regarded as very significant.

There is little doubt that thousands of Boers are rushing to Cronje's aid and that every day he manages to hold out may help his chances. It looks now as if there was a method in Cronje's madness, after all. It is said by some experts that he played a desperate game for the purpose of saving his artillery.

**Saved His Artillery.**

"It is a strange fact that since the Boers were trapped at Paardeberg they have not used any big guns to reply to the terrible bombardment of the British. Correspondents have been unable to understand this strange silence of the Boer guns. It is now believed that Cronje sent his big guns from Magarsfontein after he learned that Roberts with his army was south of the Modder River and that later, when he found French moving around his left flank, he moved himself. When he found himself pursued he selected his present position, where he determined to hold the British back until he knew all the heavy artillery had escaped. It is thought by some that at the last moment Cronje will attempt to cut his way out, and will try to rally at a point north where the artillery will be safely mounted."

An explanation of Cronje's present fight is that he is deliberately sacrificing himself and his men to hold Roberts' army back and to give the Free State forces a chance to assemble and prepare for effective resistance in a properly selected position. Had he surrendered when Kitchener demanded it, the way to Bloemfontein would have been open and the Free State at the mercy of Roberts' army.

In the absence of official news, Cape Town and Durban are sending all sorts of sensational reports. One story is that General Cronje has been wounded. Another story says that Lord Kitchener has been slightly wounded in the left arm. There is still a third one that General Buller has retired to Colenso. All of these reports are untrustworthy.

There are wild rumors here today that Cronje has surrendered and that Buller has relieved Ladysmith. All lack confirmation and are discredited.

**KEEPING BULLER BUSY.**

Unable to Report All Casualties Because of Continuous Fighting.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—General Buller cables the War Office the names of officers killed and wounded in the fighting on February 22. Three lieutenants were killed and fourteen officers, including a major general and a lieutenant colonel, wounded.

General Buller adds that continuous fighting prevents him from giving the casualties among the men.

The names of the killed and wounded officers are: Killed—The Hon. R. Cathart (son of Lord Cathart), of the Rifle Brigade; Lieutenants Cox and Parker, of the Lancashire Regiment; wounded, Major General Wynne and Colonel Harris, of the East Surreys.

## AID REACHES THE BOERS.

Natives Tell of Movements Near Gaborone.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Re-enforcements reached the Boers at Gaborone, the point where Colonel Plumer has been attempting to pass the burghers on his way to relieve Mafeking, on February 16, natives say, from Mafeking, where four regiments of natives have been impressed to carry on the siege. The Mafeking regiment came into contact with them and 200 Boers retired. A British lieutenant and thirty troops were wounded.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts' proclamation to the Free Staters appears to be displeasing to the refugees at Durban. They regard it as being too lenient.

A Boer dispatch from Pretoria, of yesterday's date, says: "The commandant at Colberg was attacked by a large force of cavalry and severe fighting ensued. The British attempted to storm the Boer position and got within 400 yards, when they were compelled to retire with great loss. The Federal forces had one man wounded."

The Irish-American Boer ambulance corps, which sailed from New York February 15 on the French liner La Gascogne, has arrived at Havre.

## KENTUCKY POSSE ORGANIZED.

Democratic Legislators Protected From Taylor's Men.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 24.—General John B. Castleman, who was appointed Adjutant General by Governor Beckham, stated today that, so far as commanding men to force Beckham's orders, he had been relieved. He said that a posse of men had been organized to protect Democratic legislators from Taylor's men.

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A signed statement made today by Dr. A. P. Morgan Vance, who examined Gobel the day he was shot, intimates that Gobel's wound was not fatal, and that he was shot twice, one ball entering his back and the other the chest. Dr. Morgan Vance says he has been unable to learn whether an inquest was held over Gobel.

## COLONEL KING DEAD.

For Twelve Years Postmaster of the House of Representatives.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 24.—Col. William S. King, known as the father of Republicanism in Minnesota and for twelve years Postmaster of the House of Representatives at Washington, died here this morning.

## THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

General Wright Sees the President and Accepts an Appointment.

General Luke Wright arrived in the city this morning, and called upon the President at 1 o'clock, as arranged. A conference lasting half an hour or more was the result, during the course of which the President stated the feelings of the new administration upon the views of a Philippine policy before offering him a place on the Commission. That they were satisfactory and in accord with the wishes of the Administration is evidenced by the result. General Wright saying that he had been tendered the post, and had accepted it.

The Commission as it now stands is composed of Gen. Luke Wright, of Tennessee; Prof. Dean Worcester, of Michigan; Judge Taft, of Ohio, and possibly, Prof. Bernard Moses, of California.

Henry C. Ide, of Vermont, will probably be the final member chosen. He had a long conference with the President yesterday, and from the fact that no new names are heard at the White House, there is reason to believe that the final selection has been made and that the Commission will be composed as above stated.

## SUSTAINS THE FINDINGS.

Secretary Long Approves the Sentence of Lieutenant Lynch.

The Secretary of the Navy today approved the findings and sentence of the court-martial which tried First Lieutenant James W. Lynch, United States Marine Corps, at Cavite, Philippine Islands, on the charge of drunkenness and other charges growing out of the alleged forcible entrance with two enlisted men into the house of a Filipino citizen. On his own statement Lieutenant Lynch was convicted of the charge of drunkenness, but was acquitted of the other charges. He was sentenced to lose ten numbers in his grade, and by the action of the Secretary this sentence stands.

The attorneys for Lieutenant Lynch raised the point that the Philippine Islands were territory of the United States and that the trial was contrary to the statute which provides that naval courts-martial shall not be ordered on the waters or in the territory of the United States except by direction of the President or by a commander-in-chief of a home station under the special authority of the President, and that the trial proceedings, findings, and sentences were, therefore, illegal. In replying to the contention, Secretary Long says that it is not regarded as resting upon any substantial basis.

## A COLD WAVE COMING.

A Fall to Fifteen Degrees in the Temperature Predicted.

Freezing weather with accompanying rain or snow is what the Weather Bureau officials have promised the residents of this city and vicinity during the next twenty-four hours. This, however, is not as discouraging as the first few words of the prediction seem to warrant as it closes with the statement that the temperature will be to moderate on Monday.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon the following forecast was issued by the Weather Bureau: "No snow, followed by a cold wave with gales tonight. Temperature 15 degrees above zero Sunday morning."

## THE BATH CITY LOST.

Ran Ashore on an Island in the British Channel.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British steamship Bath City, Captain Jones, which sailed from New York February 9, for Bristol, ran ashore on Lundy Island, at the entrance of the British Channel this morning and will be a total loss. The crew was saved.

The Bath City, of the Bristol City Line, is practically a new vessel, having made but one or two trips. She is a freighter, but generally carries a few passengers.

\$12.25 To Baltimore and Re- \$12.25

Thru via Pennsylvania Railroad.

Leave on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, good for return until Monday, February 26. All trains except Congressional Limited.

## AGAINST THE TARIFF BILL

Republican Opposition Likely to Force Its Withdrawal.

A Lively Conference in the Speaker's Room This Morning—Propositions Made, But Not Accepted—Another Session of Those Interested to Be Held Later in the Day.

A conference was held in the Speaker's room at the Capitol this morning, and opponents of the House Porto Rican Tariff bill, the Republicans who oppose the bill, were represented by Messrs. Lorimer, Powers, and Crumpacker, while Messrs. Grosvenor, Payne, and Daltzell spoke for the measure.

The friends of the bill are today greatly concerned over its prospects. The opponents want the bill recommitted with instruction to report to the House the original Payne bill giving free trade to Porto Rico. Messrs. Grosvenor, Payne, and Daltzell are opposed to this. They suggested today that the bill be amended so as to give the President plenary power and let him fix the tariff. The effect of such an amendment would be to continue the present military control of the island.

No agreement could be reached, and a recess was taken. The conference will be resumed later in the day.

A Republican conference on the House Porto Rican bill, was held last night at the residence of Representative McCall. About sixteen members of the House were present. This meeting represented the opposition to the passage of the Porto Rican bill of the Ways and Means Committee, and assurances were received that twenty-six Republicans would vote against the measure. All the Republicans who have been prominently mentioned in opposition, were participants in the conference.

The policy advocated and finally declared was to force the House leaders in the Ways and Means Committee to voluntarily withdraw the bill for modification. In case this movement fails, the opponents of the bill to the committee. Representative Richardson, the minority leader, has said that the Democrats would support such a motion.

The Republican opponents desire, however, not to vote against members of the majority party on the floor, and it is expected that they will therefore be made at a Republican caucus tonight to induce the Ways and Means Committee to withdraw the bill voluntarily for amendment.

There were not more than twenty-five members on the floor when the House met last night. The speaker was Mr. Clayton of Alabama. He made a constitutional argument against the Porto Rican Tariff bill. The House, he said, was to carry out the recommendations of the President and give free trade to Porto Rico. He wanted the House to pass the bill introduced by Mr. Henry of Texas, giving constitutional government to Porto Rico, and one which the people of the island were asking for.

The pending bill, he said, was a taxing measure, and not a measure of territory, as claimed by the majority. Mr. Tawney, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, defended the bill. He expressed his regret that yesterday it was left for Mr. Littlefield to play the part of the buffoon for the benefit of the Democratic party and the pleasure of the galleries. The applause given him by the Democrats, he said, was never before given to a speech from that party. He defended the bill and justified the action of the Ways and Means Committee in refusing free trade to Porto Rico.

## THE DISTRICT ESTIMATES.

An Early Report by the House Appropriations Committee Expected.

The District Appropriations Committee of the House is at work on the estimates and recommendations presented to them by the Commissioners, and it is understood that their report will soon be ready.

Commissioner Wright stated to a Times reporter this morning that the report of the committee would be ready within a day or two. Meantime, he said the Commissioners were going ahead as though all the money they wanted had been appropriated.

It is understood at the District Building that it is the intention of the House Committee to treat the estimates fairly, and not enter upon a process of scaling them down extensively.

The hope is held out also that the big deficit which was figured out some time ago may be made not to appear by holding over the work on the estimates until the beginning of the next fiscal year. For instance the work authorized on the Sixteenth Street extension if undertaken now would consume a sum almost equal to the threatened shortage. Hence, by delaying this improvement until July, the cost would not be chargeable against the revenues of the fiscal year. By the same token, the work on the new sewerage system, with liberal appropriations for the fiscal year ending in 1901, the District could pull through without assuming a floating debt.

It is expected that the estimates of the Commissioners may be reduced somewhat at certain points. This is usually what occurs in the framing of appropriation bills, but it is not expected that they will be reduced to anything like the volume of the deficit which was anticipated a few days ago.

## THE COEUR D'ALENE ENQUIRY.

Testimony Given Concerning the Recent Mining Troubles.

At today's meeting of the House Committee on Military Affairs, which is investigating the Coeur d'Alene mining troubles, William Stinson, former Commissioner of Shoshone county, resumed his stand. He said he had had a fair trial in the Idaho State courts, but the information against him was not filed for fourteen days after his arrest.

Robert V. Cozier, United States District Attorney, for Idaho, who prosecuted miners for interfering with United States officials in the capture of the train at Coeur d'Alene, which was a mail train, told the story of the trials, but said he knew nothing about the conduct of the military. He secured convictions in ten cases out of thirteen tried.

## FOR A McLELLAN STATUE.

Favorable Report on a Bill for a Site and Pedestal.

Representative Cummings from the Committee on Library, has made a favorable report on the bill to appropriate \$50,000 for the preparation of a site and the erection of a pedestal for a statue of the late Major General George B. McClellan in the city of Washington, the site to be selected by the and the pedestal to be erected under the supervision of the Secretary of War, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, and the Chairman of the McClellan Statue Committee of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

"General McClellan was called, in emergency, to the defense of the capital upon the defeat of the Union army at the first battle of Bull Run or Manassas. Here he organized, drilled, and perfected the historic Army of the Potomac, which for four years battled with the army of northern Virginia, and won the Union and Confederate capitals. In defeat at first, it never lost heart; in victories at last, without shouts of triumph, it found peace and all his men and officers and fellow countrymen, so lately its foes, at Appomattox."

"This army is represented in the city of Washington by one statue only, that of Major General Hancock, one of its distinguished corps commanders. The Society of the Army of the Potomac, an organization of surviving officers and men of that army, has raised a fund for the casting of an equestrian statue of General McClellan, their first commander, for erection in this capital of the society, now coming to Congress and this for a pedestal and site as set forth in this bill and as has heretofore been granted in the cases of equestrian statues of Washington, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, Logan, and Hancock."

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## GENERAL ORD'S REMAINS.

The Bill Providing for Removal From Cuba to Arlington.

Senator Hansbrough has submitted a favorable report on the bill authorizing the Health Officer of the District of Columbia to issue a permit for the removal of the remains of the late Brig. Gen. E. O. C. Ord from Oak Hill Cemetery, District of Columbia, to the United States National Cemetery at Arlington, Va.

The report says: "The intention of this special legislation is to permit the interment of the remains of the late Brig. Gen. E. O. C. Ord at Arlington, Va., where they properly belong. General Ord died of yellow fever in Havana, Cuba, in 1853. One year later his remains were transferred to the United States National Cemetery at Arlington, Va. Recently his family and friends have applied for authority to transfer the remains to Arlington, but find that this cannot be done in view of the provision of section 11 of act approved August 28, 1897, which prohibits the reopening of a grave in which the body of a person dead of yellow fever has been buried."

The Health Officer reports to the committee that the removal can be effected safely."

## THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

Appearance of the Disease at Hilo, Hawaii, Disturbs War Officials.

Quartermaster General Ludington has received a report to the effect that the bubonic plague has broken out at Hilo, in the Hawaiian Islands. When this report was confirmed by Surgeon General Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service, considerable concern in the War Department.

When the plague appeared sometime ago in Honolulu, orders were issued by the War Department that all transports carrying passengers should be quarantined at Pearl Harbor and that the ship should stop at Hilo instead of Honolulu.

Now that a strict quarantine has been placed over Hilo, it is feared that the department to ship materials to Manila by the Pacific route, for there is no other port where the cattle could be unloaded for exportation. It is, therefore, feared that the animals be given exercise on land during their trip to the Philippines, and there being no Pacific port available the Eastern route will have to be used.

Another report also comes from Hilo that the dreaded disease has appeared at that place, several cases having developed. Hilo is a coaling port for transports going to the Philippines, and the quarantine of that place great inconvenience will be experienced by vessels bound on the ocean and expecting to load coal at Hilo.

Surgeon General Wyman said this morning that he could not officially confirm the report that the plague has appeared in Hilo, but he had heard that such was the case.

## AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Few Official Visitors, But Many Curious Sightseers.

Quite a number of callers today dropped in at the White House on their way to the Paucetote wedding. Secretary Porter accompanied quite a party to the church, and it was rather a dull Saturday morning. Among the visitors were: The Secretary of the Navy, Governor Stone of Missouri, Hon. J. H. Lewis, General Carr, Representative Sheppard of Texas, and Prof. I. B. Thayer of New York. The house was crowded with sightseers, as usual, many coming in carriages.

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## PATROL AND ALARM COMPANY.

A Bill to Authorize a New District Corporation.

Representative Peffer of Maryland has introduced a bill to incorporate the District Patrol and Alarm Company of the District of Columbia.

The proposed incorporators are George E. D. Baldwin, G. Hector Clemen, and M. P. Barrette, of Washington; Harry M. Brown and James A. Baldwin, of Baltimore, and James Berry, of New York.

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